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Security-Minded CIA Is So Secure Senator Can't Get Letter to Director

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The security-minded Central Intelligence Agency is so sure that a Senate page failed utterly to penetrate it when he tried to deliver a personal letter from Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) to CIA Director John A. McCone.

It seems that Church ran across some information that he thought McCone ought to know about, so he wrote McCone a letter. That was easy, but getting it to McCone was something else again.

Church's secretary took the precaution of phoning the agency to say that a Senate riding page would bring it to CIA's reception office at 2430 E St. NW. But when the page

got there, he later reported, he found the place "barricaded," marked "Personal for the Director" of CIA.

Somewhat or other he fell into the hands of CIA security police, who questioned him at length as to what he was up to. He reported back to the CIA Director's office three and a half hours later that he was completely frustrated.

The Senator's secretary quoted him as saying, "I've not had an acknowledgment from McCone. What shall I do?"

Said the obviously nettled Senator:

"Imagine if I had gotten hold of some information of the Senator felt when he heard very great importance to the country. I couldn't get it past the barricades. I could call the President, though, I suppose."